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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of :  
Shunichi SHIOZAWA et al. : Attn: BOX PCT  
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2001\_1298A  
Filed September 19, 2001 :

R.

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS GENE AND METHOD  
FOR DIAGNOSING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS  
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/01697 Filed March 21, 2000]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP00/01697 filed March 21, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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Claim 3. (Amended) A DNA fragment, which is a part of the disease gene of claim 1, and contains the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

03

Claim 6. (Amended) An antibody against the protein of claim 4.

Sub  
B11 } 03  
Claim 7. (Amended) A method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, comprising the detection of the mRNA from the disease gene of claim 1, in a biological specimen.

*Please add the following new claims:*

04  
9. A DNA fragment, which is a part of the cDNA of claim 2, and contains the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

10. An antibody against the peptide of claim 5.

Sub  
B10 }  
11. A method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, comprising the detection of the mRNA from the protein of claim 4, in a biological specimen.

**REMARKS**

The specification has been revised to reflect the 371 status. In addition, the multiple dependencies of the claims have been removed to reduce the PTO filing fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

Respectfully submitted,

Shunichi SHIOZAWA et al.

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